

**RHODE ISLAND STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday, December 4, 2015  
RIDOA, Conference Room A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**I. Attendance**

1. Members Present

Mr. Robert Azar, Chair	City of Providence
Mr. Michael DeLuca, Vice Chair	Town of Narragansett
Mr. Jared Rhodes, Secretary	RI Statewide Planning Program
Mr. John Chambers	Fuss & O'Neill, Incorporated
Ms. Ashley Hahn	Town of Exeter
Mr. Thomas Kogut	RI Public Utilities Commission
Ms. Lisa Primiano	RI Department of Environmental Management
Mr. Arnold Robinson	Roger Williams University
Mr. Michael Walker	RI Commerce Corporation
Mr. Jeffrey Willis	RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Mr. Ronald Wolanski	Town of Middletown

2. Members Absent

Mr. Steve Devine	RI Department of Transportation
Ms. Nicole LaFontaine	Town of North Kingstown
Ms. Eliza Lawson	RI Department of Health
Ms. Nancy Letendre	Mason & Associates, Incorporated
Ms. Jennifer Siciliano	City of Woonsocket

3. Staff Present

Ms. Kimberly Crabill	RI Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Kevin Flynn	RI Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Paul Gonsalves	RI Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Nancy Hess	RI Statewide Planning Program

4. Guests Present

Ms. Sue Kiernan	RI Department of Environmental Management
Mr. Ernie Panciera	RI Department of Environmental Management
Ms. Lilly Piccione	RI Public Transit Authority

**II. Agenda Items**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Azar called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. Approval of November 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes – for action

Chairman Azar asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 6, 2015. Mr. Robinson moved to approve and the motion was seconded by Mr. Kogut. There was no discussion. The following members voted aye: Azar, Chambers, DeLuca, Kogut, Primiano, Rhodes, Robinson, Walker, Willis and Wolanski. There were no nay votes, abstentions or recusals. Ms. Hahn was yet to arrive.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items – for discussion

There was none.

4. FY 16 UPWP Amendment 1, RIPTA Transit Signal Prioritization Project – for action

Chairman Azar introduced Ms. Piccione from the Rhode Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) who explained the reason for the UPWP Amendment 1. Instances where the Committee engaged in discussion were as follows:

Mr. Willis asked if RIPTA was comfortable with the increased costs and if they felt the bid was reasonable. Ms. Piccione responded that yes RIPTA was very comfortable with the bid.

Ms. Primiano asked if RIPTA was able to track the savings that result from Transit Signal Prioritization (TSP). Ms. Piccione responded that they have detailed data points on the R-line and that they were able to pull a full bus off the R-line as a result of TSP while maintaining the same level of service, which is a measurable savings.

Mr. Azar asked where the additional money would be coming from. Mr. Rhodes responded that the federal portion would be coming from the Metropolitan Planning Organization's contingency reserves. Ms. Piccione responded that RIPTA would be providing the match.

Chairman Azar asked for a motion to recommend that the FY 16 UPWP Amendment 1 be submitted to the State Planning Council for approval. Mr. Walker made the motion and the motion was seconded by Mr. Willis. There was no discussion. The following members voted aye: Azar, Chambers, DeLuca, Kogut, Primiano, Rhodes, Robinson, Walker, Willis and Wolanski. There were no nay votes, abstentions or recusals. Ms. Hahn was yet to arrive.

5. Water Quality State Guide Plan Element Project Update - for discussion

Chairman Azar next called on Ms. Hess from the Statewide Planning Program who introduced Sue Kiernan and Ernie Panciera from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM). Ms. Kiernan gave the attached power point presentation. Instances where the committee engaged in discussion were as follows:

Ms. Hahn arrived at 9:37 a.m.

Mr. Walker cautioned about defining peoples roles in the guide plan as this information changes and can quickly become out of date.

Mr. Walker stated that his overall concern was that the draft needed to acknowledge that investing in water quality needs to be balanced with Rhode Island maintaining a competitive economic position within the region. Mr. Walker also made a suggestion for evaluation that included looking at the new storm water manual to see if the expected results were being obtained and at what cost. He concluded his comments by noting that there needs to be a predictable and flexible regulatory process.

Mr. Willis commented that the suggested storm water content was at too detailed a level for a State Guide Plan.

Mr. DeLuca noted that there are disconnects between DEM objectives and municipal capacity regarding storm water and asked if the plan will address these topics with particular regard to funding. Ms. Kiernan responded that the plan should articulate both perspectives and try to bring them together. She further noted that the financial challenge is a real one, that it is a national concern, that the plan should and will acknowledge it, and call for additional effort.

Mr. Chambers asked for clarification on the changing role of municipalities in regulating wetlands which Ms. Kiernan subsequently provided.

## 6. Associate Director's Report

Mr. Flynn addressed the following items under the Associate Director's report:

- Farewell and acknowledgements

Chairman Azar asked for a resolution of appreciation to be adopted by the Technical Committee for the time Mr. Flynn was here.

Discussion occurred as follows:

Mr. Azar shared that when Mr. Flynn came to work at Statewide Planning there was an immediate shift in the tone and the way the office functioned. Mr. Flynn had an immediate influence with Land Use 2025. The State Guide Plan was made into a much more user friendly document. Mr. Flynn gave incredible support to those at the municipal level. Mr. Azar concluded by saying that as a former student of Mr. Flynn's he is grateful for all that he learned from him and for all he has done for the State.

Mr. DeLuca made a motion to adopt a resolution of appreciation for Mr. Flynn which was seconded by all members. The following members voted aye: Azar, Chambers, DeLuca, Hahn, Kogut, Primiano, Rhodes, Robinson, Walker, Willis and Wolanski. There were no nay votes, abstentions or recusals.

Mr. DeLuca next shared that Mr. Flynn was one of his very first mentors. He also thanked Mr. Flynn for his leadership, education, hard work, creativity, and his ability to bring people together and for modeling those qualities. Mr. DeLuca also noted that Mr. Flynn turned the State Planning Office in a great direction and whomever the successor will be has a great foundation to start from. In conclusion Mr. DeLuca thanked Mr. Flynn as a friend, as a colleague and as a mentee for all of his contributions.

## 7. Announcements – for discussion

Mr. Azar announced that Providence is implementing the downtown circulation project, which includes making several major streets two-way.

8. Adjourn

Chairman Azar called for a motion to adjourn. Committee member DeLuca made the first motion. The motion was seconded by Committee member Primiano. There was no further discussion. The following members voted aye: Azar, Chambers, DeLuca, Hahn, Kogut, Primiano, Rhodes, Robinson, Walker, Willis and Wolanski. There were no nay votes, abstentions or recusals.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jared L. Rhodes, II  
Secretary